

Tuesday, 18 September

Acting

1. Meeting with McGeorge Bundy 11:00. (Calendar Sheet)
2. Sent R. Jack Smith to Watch Committee. Combined Watch Report (dtd 19 Sept.) states: "Cuba: Large numbers of Soviet-flag cargo vessels, many of them suspected of carrying military or military-related materiel, are sustaining the high level of Soviet assistance to Cuba. Additional technicians are also en route.

"Requests for volunteers for Cuba have been noted in the communications of the GSFG and Soviet air units both in Hungary and Poland. Additional military specialists would be required, not only to train Cuban personnel in the use of newly arrived equipment, but also to man and maintain the more sophisticated weapons and electronic equipment for an interim period while the Cuban armed forces become proficient in their use. A recruitment campaign for "volunteers" could, in addition, serve troop indoctrination purposes.

"An emission from a missile-associated [redacted] probably originating from the SAM site at Mariel was intercepted on 15 September, suggesting that this site may be or soon will become operational.

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"A Soviet-installed coastal defense cruise missile site has been located in the Banes area of Oriente Province. Missiles for this system could have a range of 30 to 35nm. It is considered possible that similar missile sites will be installed to defend other strategic coastal areas."

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Approved For Release 2004/02/19 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001700180025-0

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